

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

Attached are new formal drawings.

Numeral "20g" has been added to Fig. 5.

"Prior Art" has been added to Figs. 6-8.

REMARKS

In regard to section 1 of the office action, the abstract has been amended above. However, foreign priority has not been added to page 1. The foreign priority information is automatically printed on the issued patent by the USPTO when the patent is printed. There is no USPTO requirement to add foreign priority information to page 1 of the specification.

In regard to section 2 of the office action, attached are new replacement sheets.

In regard to section 3(a) of the office action, the reinforcing strip 21 is shown in Figs. 2 and 4. In regard to section 3(b) of the office action, Fig. 5 and paragraph 0024 have been amended above.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. (US 6,290,553) in view of Chaillot et al. (US 5,951,339). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. (US 6,290,553) in view of Chaillot et al. (US 5,951,339) and Saito (US 6,352,453). The examiner is requested to reconsider these rejections.

Claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice above and their features have been added to claim 1. As amended, claim 1 claims that a rear end portion is formed at the bottom plate and the movable contact strip by folding back the rear portion of the movable contact strip, wherein extended ribs are formed in the rear portion of the movable contact strip as well as in a corresponding portion of the bottom plate in a direction

perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the movable contact strip, or the rear end portion comprises the rear portion of the movable contact strip being fused to the bottom plate.

The art of record does not disclose or suggest the combined features of claim 1. The examiner stated that Sato et al. discloses a movable contact strip (18) formed by folding a strip-like member. This appears to be incorrect. Please note that claim 1 claims a connecting terminal formed from a single metal plate. In Sato et al., however, contact piece 12 is a separate member from the body 10. Contact piece is not disclosed or suggested as being formed from a single metal plate as the body 10.

The examiner also stated that Sato et al. discloses the rear portion of the movable contact strip 12 fused to the bottom plate. This also appears to be incorrect. There appears to be no disclosure or suggestion that the rear end of the contact piece 12 is fused to the bottom plate of the body 10.

Also, although Saitoh discloses a rib at fulcrum portion 3d and a jog in the body behind the fulcrum portion 3d, there is no disclosure or suggestion of a rear end portion formed at the bottom plate and the contact piece 12 by folding back a rear portion of the contact piece 12, where extended ribs are formed in the rear portion of the contact piece 12 as well as in a corresponding portion of the bottom plate in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the contact piece 12. A rib in the current invention is original compared with the ribs illustrated in Saitoh. With applicants'

corresponding ribs, they ensure prevention of separation (or relative movement) of the overlapping portion at the rear end portion. This is also true for the welding situation. Claim 1 claims that a rear end portion is formed at the bottom plate and the movable contact strip by folding back the rear portion of the movable contact strip, wherein extended ribs are formed in the rear portion of the movable contact strip as well as in a corresponding portion of the bottom plate in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the movable contact strip, or the rear end portion comprises the rear portion of the movable contact strip being fused to the bottom plate. These features of claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though the claims dependent upon claim 1 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

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Reply to Office Action of: 02/13/2008

Respectfully submitted,

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8/11/08

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date shown below in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Aug. 1, 2008  
Date

J. Dronick  
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